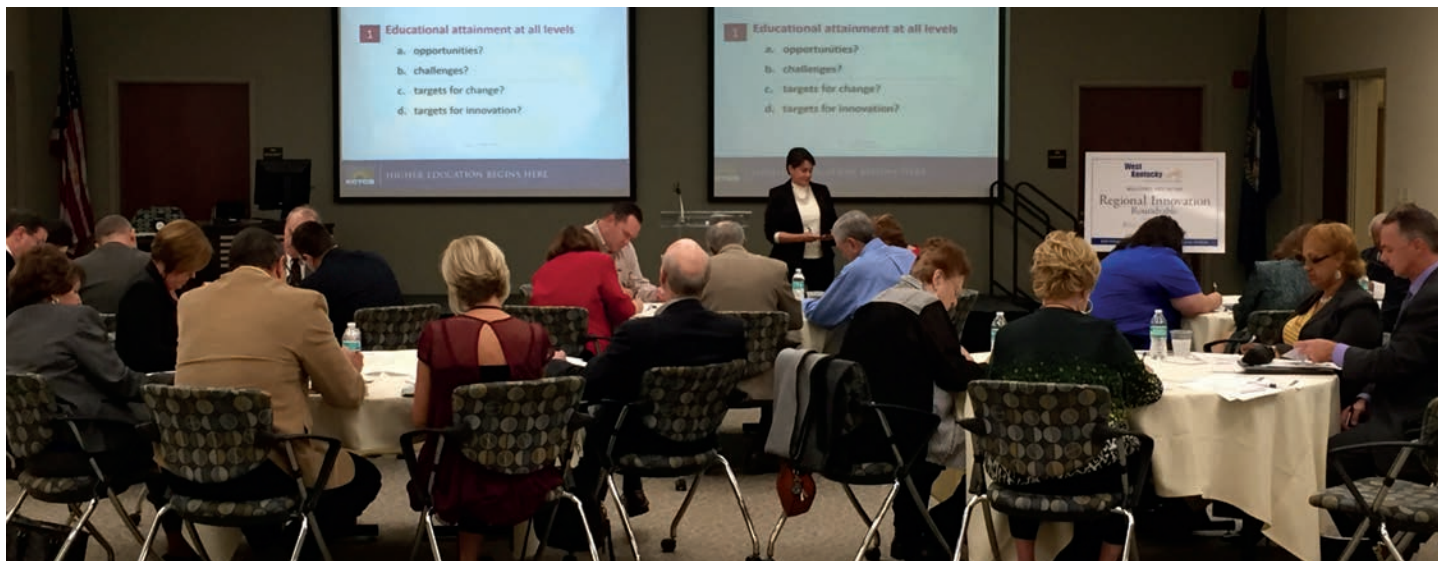


KCTCS GOOD NEWS REPORT

HIGHER EDUCATION BEGINS HERE

JANUARY 2016



EMBRACING THE DREAM

DEVELOPING A STRATEGIC PLAN TO MEET KENTUCKY'S FUTURE NEEDS

With the support of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the professional assistance of Sutherland & Associates, an organizational development consulting firm based in Lexington, Kentucky, KCTCS President Jay Box conducted a series of focused Innovation Roundtables in the fall of 2015. The primary objective was to establish a systematic approach to gathering counsel and advice from key stakeholders in the development of the KCTCS Strategic Plan 2016-22. The roundtable sessions were conducted in nine economic regions of Kentucky, with 162 session participants.

Roundtable participants were asked four questions in a closed-response format related to challenges, opportunities, targets for change, and potential innovations followed by a group discussion on each of the following overarching issues:

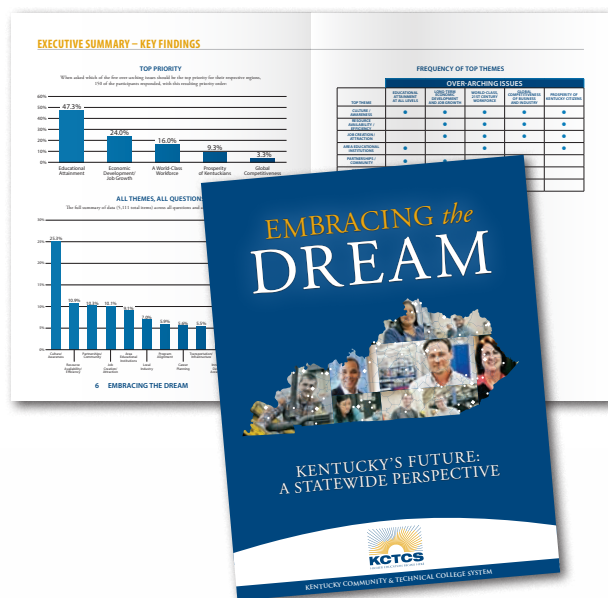
- Educational attainment at all levels
- Long-term economic development and job growth
- A world-class, 21st century workforce
- Global competitiveness of business and industry
- Prosperity of Kentucky citizens

(These issues represent common elements of the current and/or proposed strategic plans of: the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education, Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, Kentucky Department of Education, Kentucky Rising and the Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board)

ABOVE: Professionals from the Paducah-Purchase area participated in a roundtable session at West Kentucky Community and Technical College on November 5.



KENTUCKY COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM



In addition, participants were asked two follow-up questions about the top priority among these five over-arching issues and about what is currently going well in their respective regions of Kentucky.

DATA

The participants' written responses to all questions were collected, transcribed, and entered into a database. A keyword concept analysis of the responses was then conducted to surface common themes. The following 13 broad themes emerged from the data:

- Culture/Awareness
- Area Educational Institutions
- Partnerships/Community
- Affordability
- College Readiness
- Resource Availability/Efficiency
- Career Planning
- Program Alignment
- Innovative Delivery/Accessibility
- Local industry
- Transportation/Infrastructure
- Job Creation/Attraction
- Adult/Non-Traditional Learners

CONCLUSION

The statewide results of the Innovation Roundtable revealed a dream of what Kentucky could and should be, and valuable information we can use to help us actually get there. KCTCS will address the key findings from the input received from the roundtable participants to finalize its strategic plan for 2016-2022. Additionally, based on the frequency of themes and comments that emerged around the five over-arching issues, the primary areas of focus in working with our partner organizations will be:

- To instill in the public an understanding of the value of education, careers, and a global perspective to overcome societal problems and generational acceptance of poverty, mediocrity, and hopelessness.
- To increase funding and invest it in the infrastructure and workforce required to sustain global competitiveness.
- To diversify our economy by supporting emerging fields, entrepreneurship, innovation, and local jobs with global employers and/or consumers.
- To leverage our strong educational institutions by aligning P-20 programs and curricula to meet the needs of business and industry and that provide relevant lifelong learning and skills for a flexible, work-ready workforce.

Though there are clearly many challenges to overcome, with the collective commitment of state policymakers, industry partners, business organizations, economic development officials, and educational providers at all levels working together, and by aligning and marshaling our resources, we can and will pursue meaningful changes and innovation to provide a brighter future for all Kentuckians.

[Click here](#) to read more about the findings of the roundtable discussions.

